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AUSTRALIA AND THE WAR.

ADDRESS

GIVEN BY THE

PRIME MINISTER OF AUSTRALIA

(The Rt. Hon. W. M. HUGHES),

AT A MEETING OF THE PILGRIMS

Held on Friday, March 17th, 1916, at the Savoy Hotel,

The Rt. Hon. VISCOUNT BRYCE, O.M., President of the Pilgrims of Great Britain, in the Chair.



Australia and the War.

"A large and distinguished band of Pilgrims assembled at the Savoy Hotel last night to greet Mr. Hughes, the Australian Premier.

The Rt. Hon. VISCOUNT BRYCE, O.M., President of the Pilgrims of Great Britain, was in the Chair, and among the company were—

Field Marshal Lord Grenfell, G.C.B., G.C.M.G.

His Grace The Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Rt. Hon. Joseph H. Pease, M.P. Sir Gilbert Parker, Bart., M.P.

The Rt. Hon. Walter Runciman, M.P. Sir Reginald Brade, K.C.B.

Sir George Fiddes, K.C.M.G.

Captain Muirhead Collins, C.M.G. Gen. the Hon. Sir Reginald Talbot,

K.C.B. Mr. Harry E. Brittain (Chairman

British Pilgrims.)

Mr. Joseph Temperley. Sir William Bull, M.P.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Horace Plunkett, K.C.V.O.

Major Waldorf Astor, M.P.

Sir James Yoxall, M.P.

The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Chesterfield, K.G., G.C.V.O.

His Grace The Duke of Devonshire, G.C.V.O.

The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Meath,

Col. The Rt. Hon. Lord Sydenham, G.C.S.I., G.C.M.G.

The Hon. Sir Peter McBride (Agent-General for Victoria.)

The Rt. Hon. Andrew Fisher (High Commissioner for Australia.)

General F. V. Greene, U.S.A.

The Lord Blyth.

The Hon. W. P. Schreiner, C.M G. (High Commissioner for South Africa)

Lt.-General Sir Bevan Edwards, K C.M.G.

The Hon. Sir Richard McBride, K.C.M.G. (Agent-General for British Columbia.)

Mr George McLaren Brown.

Mr. J. Annan Bryce, M.P.

Sir Richard Cooper, Bart., M.P.

Sir Ernest W. Birch, K.C.M.G.

Sir Harry F. Wilson, K.C.M.G.

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The Hon. F. Flowers. Major L. Worthington Evans, M.P. Mr. A H. Pollen. Sir Joseph Lawrence. Sir Edward Coates, Bart., M.P. Sir John Jackson, M.P. Sir J. D. Rees, K.C.I.E., M.P. Sir George Riddell. Colonel Sir Hamar Greenwood, Bart., MP. Sir Harry Samuel, M.P. Mr. Alfred Sutro. Mr. A. Cecil Beck, M.P. Brig.-General The Hon. Sir Newton Moore, K.C.M.G (Agent General for Western Australia.) Major-General F. C. Beatton. The Rt. Hon. Lord Sandhurst, G.C.S.I. The Hon. J. C. Clemens. The Mayor of Westminster. Sir Charles Waldstein. Sir George Askwith, K.C.B. The Rev. Archibald Fleming, D.D. The Rt. Rev. The Bishop of Edinburgh. The Hon, Robert Skinner (American Consul General.) Sir Frederick Fryer, K.C.S.I. The Hon, E. A. Dudley Ryder. Mr. Henry Arthur Jones. Mr. Patrick Francis Murphy. Mr. H. C. Levis,

Mr. Frank Souter.

Major H. D. Palmer.

Sir Joseph Beecham, Bart.

The Hon. E. A. Dudley Ryder.

Mr. J. Wilson Taylor. Sir Herbert Praed. Sir Thomas Barlow, Bart., K.C.V.O. Mr. A. Shirley Benn, M.P. Mr. R. D. Blumenfeld. Mr. Thomas Marlowe. Sir Thomas H. Berridge. Sir R. B. D. Acland. The Lord Fairfax of Cameron. Sir Thomas Dewar. Mr. H. Gordon Selfridge. The Rt. Hon. Sir Francis Mowatt, G.C.B. Captain J. Bell White. The Hon. Theodore Marburg. The Rt. Hon Sir Frederick Pollock, Bart., LL.D. Col. O. A. G. Fitzgerald, C.M.G. Lt.-General E. A. Wylde. Lt.-Gen. Sir Henry MacKinnon, K.C.B. Sir Henry Bell, Bart. Mr. R. M. Collins. Mr. John Lane The Hon. Lionel Guest. Sir Edwin Pears. Captain Hall, R.N. Sir Arthur Herbert, G.C.V.O.

Mr. J. Leigh Wood, C.M.G. Mr. G. Buckston Browne. Sir Edgar Sebright, Bart. Sir George Makgill, Bart. Mr. W. A. M. Goode. Mr. Donald Rose. Mr. J. G. Colmer, C.M.G.

Sir J. S. Harmood Banner, M.P."

THE CHAIRMAN (The Rt. Hon. VISCOUNT BRYCE): Gentlemen, before we get to the business of the evening, I will ask the indefatigable and invaluable Chairman of our Committee to make a statement to you.

Mr. Harry Brittain (Chairman of the British Pilgrims): Lord Bryce, Mr. Hughes, and fellow Pilgrims: Before we listen to the address of our distinguished guest, I should like with your permission to read to you a cable which I have just received from that grand old American citizen and life-long friend of England, Mr. Joseph H. Choate. His message reads:—

"American Pilgrims gladly join British Pilgrims in doing honour to the Prime Minister of Australia, which country has acted such a noble part in the defence and and preservation of the British Empire. - JOSEPH CHOATE, President American Pilgrims." (Applause.)

As we are gathered together in force to-night I think it might interest my fellow Pilgrims to know that we are looking forward to a visit in the near future from a distinguished American Pilgrim, the Hon. James M. Beck, a great lawyer and one time Assistant-Attorney General of the United States.

I have no doubt that members of the Pilgrims Club all remember Mr. Beck's masterly summing-up of the causes of the War and his apportionment of the blame in a carefully detailed study entitled "The Evidence of the Case."

The incisive points in his argument were followed with the keenest interest the world over, but his verdict was not received with the slightest enthusiasm by the Germanic Powers. (Laughter.)

If he should be able to visit London I feel sure I may promise him, in your name, the right hand of welcome from the British Pilgrims. (Applause.)

THE CHAIRMAN (The Rt. Hon. VISCOUNT BRYCE): Now, fellow Pilgrims, my duty is to introduce to you the distinguished man who has kindly offered to address He does not need any introduction. (Hear, hear.) You have read the eloquent words which he has spoken already on several occasions since he has been in this country, and you know what he has done; in fact, we all know what he has done as Prime Minister of Australia during the last few months to voice the sentiments of Australia, and that has done more to organise the action of Australia, in our common cause. (Hear, hear.) Gentlemen, there is nothing that has happened in this War-during the last twenty months-which has not strengthened our conviction that we are fighting the battle of humanity and justice, and there is also nothing which has done more to nerve our arms and to raise our spirits than our sense of the way in which the great self-governing Dominions have rallied to the Empire. (Applause.) Not twelve hours had passed from the time war had become certain before there came from Canada, there came from Australia, from South Africa, from New Zealand, from

Newfoundland, assurances of their determination to stand by us, and their willingness to send their best blood to help us. (Hear, hear.) And you know how magnificently that promise has been carried out. (Applause.) You know how, from the beginning of the war, Australia in particular-Australia without distinction of party, Australia without distinction of class-has rallied to the cause. You know how many men have been sent from time to time and how there have always been new men to step in to fill the places of those who have gone, and you know with what valour they have fought on the battlefields of Europe. The spirit which the Dominions have shewn, the way in which the Australians and New Zealanders have fought in the Dardanelles, and the Canadians fought on the battlefields of Flanders; these things have thrilled the world, astonished the world, astonished even ourselves. (Applause.) There has been nothing like it, gentlemen, in British history. In fact, I do not know if there has been anything in the history of the world to compare with the ardour and the lovalty to a great cause which have brought warriors from the furthest corners of the earth to sustain a fight for right. (Applause.) They have made us feel that it is not merely the number of men, or the valour of the men, it is also the spirit which animates the men that counts, and that will lead us on to victory. (Hear, hear.) Gentlemen, there is only one other observation I wish to make. It is perhaps not in the strictest sense relevant, but even if it should appear to depart from the strictest rules of order, what is the use of a Chairman if he is not allowed now and then to transgress? This day, gentlemen, will be remembered by us all as the occasion of our meeting Mr. Hughes, but I would remind you that it is also the day of the Patron Saint of Ireland. We are all glad to see that day is being celebrated in London to-day. You, Mr. Hughes, know how in Australia Irishmen, Scotchmen, Welshmen - I think you will probably belong to the last category-men of all these divisions of the United Kingdom are able to work together in harmony for the good of Australia and for the betterment of the Empire. We are glad to see that the days of a happy unity and concord between the two islands that form the United Kingdom have arrived. It is a matter of real satisfaction that the day of the Patron Saint of Ireland should be celebrated by Englishmen no less than by Irishmen, and that the valour of Irish soldiers, which we celebrate by this Irish flag day to-day, should evoke a sense of admiration from Englishmen as well as from Irishmen. (Applause.) In this we see a happy omen for the future unity and strength of the United Kingdom, just as we have seen and rejoiced in the splendid help the United Kingdom is receiving from the great Dominions. (Applause.) Gentlemen, I have the pleasure and honour of asking Mr. Hughes to address you. (Cheers.)

"WE SHALL WIN."

Mr. Hughes, who received a great ovation, said: I am very glad that you invited me to be present to-night, because it gives me an opportunity of stating again what is the very inspiration of our life at present, and the burden of all our immediate hopes and desires and activities -- our determination to save from the onslaught of barbarous Prussia our civilisation and our liberties. Many of the members of this society are Americans. I do not think this is the time to judge America's attitude towards this war. For the help that has been given we are, of course, distinctly grateful. To the American members of the society I should say only two things. The first is that we in Australia face the United States across the Pacific, and we in the past have liked her well and longed for closer friendship. (Cheers.) The second thing I wish to say to Americans here to-night is that we are winning—we shall win. (Cheers.) I speak as one from the frontier of Anglo-Saxonism when I say that to those who know the British Empire, and the resolute men and women who inhabit it, there is not a shadow of doubt that the vast might of our Empire and of our race, as it will and can be organised, will be invincible and completely victorious.

The generous and kindly cable from the American Pilgrims has given me, I need hardly say, feelings of great satisfaction. The name of the Honourable Joseph H. Choate is a household word in Australia, where it stands as a guarantee that the ultimate ideal of us all—

the joint use of Anglo-Saxonism for the benefit of humanity—will some day be realised. (Applause.)

This dreadful war was forced upon us. By no act of ours did we provoke it; for no people desired war less than those who make up that congeries of nations which we designate by the term "British Empire." We were, and are by instinct, a peaceful people. may be, indeed, best described as a civilised people. No better and no clearer distinction can be drawn between us and that great nation with which we are now locked in deadly struggle than the fact that the British nation stands for the highest ideals of civilisation. What the other stands for their dreadful deeds since the war began and the vile doctrines upon which their nation for forty years has battened, say. It is very certain that there is not an ideal cherished by us that finds an answering echo in the minds of the enemy. With them Might is Right. There is between the ideals of Britain and Germany a gulf as wide as divides heaven from hell, right from wrong. (Hear, hear.)

WORLD'S DESTINY IN THE BALANCE.

The issues at stake are vital and the fate of the world hangs upon them. And the peoples of the earth, although some may look on with an air of indifference and hold themselves aloof, are being enveloped, against their will, in this great struggle, which, like some great tidal wave, sweeps resistlessly over the whole earth, and cannot be dammed here or there by the act of any man or any nation. The destiny of the world is to-day

trembling in the balance, and every nation, every man must make up his mind on which side he shall take his stand.

This war will leave the world very different from what it found it. There were many of us drifting along pleasant, profitable channels. The call of duty fell dully on our ears. We turned our backs on the purifying waters of self-sacrifice. We thought only of pleasures, or at best of privileges rather than duties. This war has come at once as a mighty spur, a sedative, a corrective—perhaps needed by our race for its salvation. At any rate it has come. It will profoundly affect the destiny of our race: it will profoundly affect the destiny of the whole world.

If by any malign stroke of fate the issue should turn against us, the clock of civilisation would be set back a hundred years. The outlook of mankind would be profoundly changed. Evil would have overcome good. Force would have trampled upon Right. We should fall back into what, although it might be disguised under the thin veneer of Kultur, would nevertheless be a real state of barbarism: for barbarism does not differ from civilisation in appearance, but in reality. Not by their garments alone do civilised men differ from barbarians, but in their thoughts, in their outlook upon life, in their conduct, and by the acceptance of the standard of right, not might.

"A UNITED PEOPLE."

We have gone out to battle with the enemy. Out of evil cometh good. The war fell upon an Empire

menaced with turmoil. But at the first rattling of the sabre turmoil died down, dissensions ceased, we were a united people. There is not from Dan to Beersheba, from one end of this mighty Empire to the other, a place where the people do not stand four-square against their common enemy. This war has welded together, by bonds that time will not dissolve, that nothing but our own incredible folly can wholly break asunder—this war has welded as if by magic that loose federation known as the British Empire into one homogeneous nation. (Cheers.)

I have come here as the representative of a Dominion after some eighteen months of war. During that time the Dominions, Canadians and South Africans and Australians, too, have on the field of battle proved that the ancient valour of their sires still burns in their veins. (Cheers.) They have all proved themselves worthy of their breeding. (Cheers.) They have realised clearly that this war is not one that concerns Britain only, but is a war which affects our very existence as free men. I have come here as the chosen representative of the most democratic Government in the world; I stand here as a representative of labour, and all the ideals that you and I jointly cherish, and those ideals of organised labour—all these, I say, rest upon the foundations of liberty, and must fall if we lose this battle.

We in Australia have fought, are fighting, and shall continue to fight to the end—(cheers)—for those free institutions which to free men are dearer than life itself. We fight not for material wealth, not for aggrandisement

of Empire, but for the right for every nation, small as well as large, to live its own life in its own way. We fight for those free institutions upon which democratic government rests. In Australia what the people say goes; whatever they choose to make, that they can make. But in the country against which we are fighting to-day the will of the German proletariat, though ten millions, though fifty millions stand behind it as nothing beside the ukase of the Kaiser.

WHAT GERMANY HAS LEARNT.

Liberty does not dare to venture into that cold and chilling atmosphere. I do not speak of that poor, pallid cadaver of liberty that slinks through the land surrounded by the Prussian Guards. Our ancestors have fought and died for liberty, and shall we, if needs be, do less? We fight, therefore, in this war for liberty. (Cheers.) We fight for those free democratic institutions without which life as we know it would lose its flavour. We should live, yes. We could have purchased an ignoble peace had we wished to do, to bend the knee to Baal. If we had but abased ourselves before this mighty Moloch, all would have been well. They were prepared to treat Canada-South Africa-as seperate nations. They were prepared to hold out the hand of friendship to Australia. Yes; they were prepared to deal with us as the man-eating tiger deals with each victim in turn.

But although we are a peace-loving people, although we have slumbered in this lotus land for many years, we have not wholly lost the valour of our forefathers, and Australians have proved themselves. To-day whatever Germany may not know, she does know that when she fights England she fights not merely the fourty-five million people in England, but she fights those millions of free men scattered throughout the world who look to Britain as the cradle of their race, men of adventure, men of resolution who will fight to the bitter end alongside of those from the land of their sire, to whom they owe those liberties and those ideals that make our country what it is. (Cheers.) And here on St. Patrick's Day let us pay a tribute to the Irish people and the Irish troops. May I as an Australian pay a special tribute to the thousands of young Irish-Australians in the Australian Forces who have put the cause of liberty before life itself. (Cheers.)

CHARGE OF THE LIGHT BRIGADE.

I feel I stand here to-day in the reflected glory of the Australian soldier. I never speak, I cannot speak, of their bravery, but I choke with emotion. We speak with pride, and rightly, of the Charge of Balaclava. There men went out in the broad light of day with all the impetus and stimulus that a knee-to-knee charge on the gallop gives to men. But the story of the Eighth Light Horse of Australia is one by which the Charge of the Light Brigade must pale its fires. The glory of these men has yet to be fully told, and will never die. (Cheers)

There were some 500 of them, and they were to attack in three waves. They were given these orders six, eight, ten hours before. Every man knew when he

got that order that it was certain death. They went. They made their preparations. They handed to those who were to remain in the trench their poor brief messages of farewell, and they went out, wave after wave, to certain death. At the whistle, the first wave leaped from the trench; most of them fell back dead upon their fellows, who were waiting their turn in the trench. In the face of this awful sight the second line leaped out to meet what they knew was certain death. Of these only five or six remained on their feet after they had gone ten or twelve yards. The third wave, undaunted, followed in their turn. All the wounded lay exposed to the pitiless machine-gun fire of the Turks, which poured a veritable hail of death into their poor, bleeding bodies. The man who got farthest was the colonel, he got fifty yards. There were eighteen officers; out of those who went two only got back. Of the men, the merest handful survived.

We must look back in the grey dawn of history before we find a deed parallel with that. The Spartans at Thermopylæ have left a name imperishable, which shall remain when the Pyramids shall crumble to dust, but surely what these men did that day—these citizensoldiers of a new nation, the last but one in the family of the great British Empire—what these men did, too, will never die. (Cheers.)

LIFE AND DEATH.

We have fought and we are fighting this battle as if it were a battle of life and death. It is a battle of

life and death. We did not enter it lightly, nor shall we quit it while life remains in us. (Cheers.) Australia has sent out of the country, to the European or Asiatic battlefields, up to the first week in March 150,000 men. (Cheers.) We have enlisted to the first week in March 268,000 men. We shall have enlisted by the beginning of June 300,000 men. (Cheers.) The Australian is coming out to do battle for the country that made him what he is. Australia is a great country. It is, indeed, a continent. It is a country of tremendous distances. It is a country in which free men live and can thrive. It is a country in which men imbibe the spirit of liberty with every pore; in which men, of necessity, take a wider outlook than those whose environment is more cramped. It is a country in which men would rather die than lose liberty.

They are coming out, these men nurtured in a free air of a great land, with bodies magnificently developed and spirits unbroken and unbreakable; they are coming out to do battle for the country that made them. (Cheers.) They are showing to-day the mettle of their pasture. They are fighting for everything they hold dear by land and sea. Australia has done and is doing what it can. They are fighting this battle in deadly earnest; it is a battle to the death. It is a battle from which we are to emerge triumphant, with our great Empire welded insolubly together, or in which we must go down, with all prospets of achieving our destiny for ever damned. (Cheers.)

The submarine menace is still with us, but it is a

THEN IN STREET

menace which has shot its bolt. It has been powerless to affect more than 1 per cent. of the mighty mercantile marine of Britain. From the most distant seas her Argosies cleave their way undismayed. To her shores they are going from distant Australia and the Canadian coast carrying grain, provisions, ammunition, everything necessary for the successful prosecution of this war. The German navy built for its destruction, is locked, within the narrow waters of its home.

"WHO WOULD BE FREE-"

True, we were unprepared in a military sense. But this I say is—and it is all that I shall say on this point—that Australia has been able to do what she has done because we adopted as the corner-stone of our democratic edifices the system of compulsory military training. We believe that there is but one way by which a nation, being free, can remain so, and that is that every man shall not only be willing to defend his country, but be able to do so. And we think that if it is right—as it surely is—that a democracy should educate its citizens so that the franchise shall be wisely exercised—for Government by the many if the many are not educated is a doubtful good—so we think that the State should train the citizen so that he may be able to defend his country, his home, and his liberties.

The defence of one's country is the primary duty of citizenship. It is the first duty of free men. Two years before the ourbreak of war we had established in Australia a system of universal military training. To

this we owe that complex and widespread organisation for training officers, non-commissioned officers, for manufacturing small arms ammunition, clothing, and so on, without which we should have been almost helpless in this great struggle. A small community of under 5,000,000 of people, yet we have been able to train, to equip from head to foot, a great army of men. It is a great thing, and one which we may mention with pride and satisfaction that Canada and Australia have together put into the field nearly twice the number of the original British Expeditionary Force. (Cheers.)

I have no doubt, nor has any Britisher or Australian any doubt, of what the result will be. Britain and her Allies at the outset of this fight were caught at a disadvantage. We were like peaceful citizens taken unaware by bandits. But we are gradually mustering our tremendous resources. We are turning our men of peace into men of war. We are gathering against our great opponent—and I pay every tribute to the bravery of the great German nation, to its tenacity, to its power of initiative, which we thought crushed out of it; I pay all that ungrudgingly. We are building up against it, massing up against it, the tremendous resources of a free people, who will die to the last man rather than be defeated.

And we shall win. We have encircled this tremendous and ferocious foe with a wall of steel which, despite her most frantic efforts, she cannot break. (Loud cheers.)

THE CHAIRMAN: Brother Pilgrims, it is not our practice on these occasions to lengthen the proceedings by formal votes of thanks, but I am sure I am expressing the sentiments of every one present when I give your thanks, your hearty and earnest thanks to Mr. Hughes for the address he has just delivered. (Applause.) We rejoice that the Prime Minister of the Australian Commonwealth, qualified not only by his high official position, but by his intimate knowledge of his fellow countrymen, to speak in their name, has given us this explanation of their feelings and has assured us of what. though we knew it, we are glad to have again emphasised by him, the determination of Australia to see this war through to a decisive victory. Mr Hughes, you have explained to us many things which this company wished to know. In particular, I would mention the lucid explanation you have given of the military system you in Australia have instituted. And you have dwelt upon the fundamental principles to which this crisis has borne witness, the spirit of devoted loyalty to the principles of liberty and justice which has not only brought Australia into the war, but has enabled her to sustain her part in it with incomparable energy. It is upon liberty that our ancient constitution and the rights of the citizen in this Mother Country were founded. It was the freely elected legislatures which we planted in the Colonies when they were only colonies, and before they had risen to the position of self-governing Dominions, that trained them to the duties of government. It is liberty that has kept them in harmony with the Mother Country, and filled them with the sense of

our unity as an Empire. If we in Britain had tried to follow a system like that which some other countries have at various times followed with their colonies, imposing the arbitrary will of the Mother Country upon them, these Dominions would soon have fallen asunder. There would not have been a British Empire, but only fragments of the British nation scattered about the world. And so as it was by liberty that these Dominions have grown, as it is by liberty that they and we are members of this one great community, embracing many smaller communities united by blood and by their common traditions, so gentlemen, so Mr. Hughes, I believe it is by reliance on the principles of liberty that the cohesion and the greatness of the Empire must be maintained. Gentlemen, it was because the Germans did not know what liberty could do that they believed the Dominions would cast themselves loose from the mother country. They did not understand the saving and strengthening power of freedom. For the want of that understanding they would have lost Australia and Canada had Australia and Canada been German Colonies. We are proud to have been the first people of the modern world that discovered and applied the truth, that freedom, conciliation, persuasion, are better than force for holding men together in society and in politics. You have not entered to-night upon the question of the future constitutional relations of the Dominions to the Mother Country and to one another, but we know it is engaging your thoughts and the thoughts of many leading statesmen of the other Dominions. Most of us feel and most of them feel that the

constitution of the British Empire ought not to stop where it stands now. Much has been done within these last twenty months to draw the Dominions and the Mother Country closer together. All that is wanted now is, first, that we-vou in the Dominions, and we at home - should know one another more completely. How much better we have got to know one another in these last twenty months of trial and effort! We trust from time onwards there will be a constantly increasing volume of reciprocal knowledge, your people coming more and more here, and our people going more and more there, and Imperial Conferences dealing more exhaustively with matters of common interest and common importance for us all. We look forward to a time after the war when we shall be able to enter on an undertaking which is difficult indeed, but surely not insuperable, the task of framing a constitution that will hold the Empire more perfectly together. (Applause.) Let us now go forward to this great work; and in the same spirit of confidence and affection which has been with us through this war, and will be with us to the end, let us address ourselves to the task of giving the Dominions more complete and better defined arrangements for the due expression of their mind and will in matters that concern us all alike, and for their participation in the policy as well as in the defence of the Empire as a whole. And may we always stand united together, as we are standing now! Allow me to give to you, Mr. Hughes, our hearty thanks for your address and our best wishes for your enjoyment of

your visit to England, with further wishes for your safe and happy journey home, and for the continuance of that splendid aid from Australia which you have so eloquently described to us, and for which we are so grateful. (Loud applause.)

Mr. Hughes: It has been more than sufficient satisfaction to me to do anything for you. It is a very great pleasure and honour for me to speak on this platform with a man whose name is known, wherever a Britisher lives, in whatever part of the Empire. He is a man not only distinguished, but illustrious. (Applause.) Lord Bryce's name has been known to me ever since I took his American text book in the bar examination and tried to satisfy the examiner that I had read it. I have met very many men, but I have never met a man who was able to be compared with Lord Bryce in the scope of his knowledge and the manner in which he was able to avail himself of it. (Hear, hear.) I may say this, I had one experience of him which I mentioned to you merely by way of warning rather than anything else. (Laughter.) Lord Bryce came to Australia; he came for information and he got it. (Laughter.) Lord Bryce had a day upon which he declared he would see twenty or thirty of the brightest and most scientific lights of Australia and by some extraordinary accident I found myself on that list, and I was to be there. (Laughter.) We were to have twenty minutes each, and in that time Lord Bryce thought he could get all we had in us. Now, there was a man of great standing in that list who was accustomed to even make plaintiffs in breach of promise cases look rather serious, and I saw him coming out of the room a personification of melancholy despair. (Laughter.) I went in, and I felt very well when I went in. (Laughter.) My permanent Under-Secretary, a man of great learning, who knew everything about the law of the Constitution, went in too. He was a fine man, very tall, rather a good man any way you liked to take him. When he came out he was quite unfit for anything for the rest of the day. (Laughter.) I say nothing beyond, if anything had been necessary to impress upon me what manner of man Lord Bryce was, that experience would have done it, and ample corroboration can be given by any of those who were unfortunate enough to get on that list. In the morning they felt themselves proud and happy men; in the evening——(Laughter). But quite seriously, it is a great pleasure to me to meet this distinguished company and to have your goodwill and your approval. I know very well that you wish Australia everything that is good—(hear, hear)—and I know that you appreciate everything that she has done, and I do assure you this, that the goodwill you bear us is more than reciprocated by the goodwill they bear (Loud applause.) vou.

The meeting then terminated.



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